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Major General Craig E. Campbell
The Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard
& Commissioner of the DMVA

Major Michael L. Haller
Managing Editor / State Public Affairs Officer

Ms. Kalei Brooks
DMVA Public Information Officer

Ms. Christine Nangle
Mr. Ken Fankhauser
Lieutenant Amy Bombassaro
Specialist Karima L. Mares
JFHQ-AK Public Affairs Specialists

Mr. James Littrell
DHS&EM Public Information Officer

Captain Kelly Mellard
First Lieutenant Bethany Ordway
168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Officers

Captain Rebecca King
Staff Sergeant John Callahan
176th Wing Public Affairs Officer

Contributors

Chris Ward

David Liebersbach
DHS&EM

Senior Airman Joshua Strang
354th Wing Public Affairs

Senior Master Sergeant Donald A. Claveau Jr.
168th Air Refueling Wing

Lieutenant Colonel Tom Cobaugh
176th Maintenance Squadron

Specialist Michael R. Noggle
11th PAD

Al Grillo
Associated Press

Mark Farmer
topcover.com

Diana Haecker
Nome Nuggett

Alaska House of Representatives
Majority Press Office

Bob Ulin
Publisher

Susan Harrington
Editor

Gloria Schein
Art Director

Darrell George
Advertising Sales



8537 Corbin Dr., Anchorage, AK 99507
(907) 562-9300 • (866) 562-9300

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WARRIORS

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On the Trail of Transformation. Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 297th Infantry, demonstrated patrol activities for a History Channel film crew during their recent visit with the Alaska National Guard.

Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs



Patriotic Musher. Alaska Army National Guard member and Nome musher Dempsey Woods displayed the names of fellow Guardsmen of Nome's 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry, on his sled during the first Nome Kennel Club sled dog race of the season, held on Jan. 8. About 10 Soldiers from Nome were part of the 1st Battalion deployment to Iraq in Sept. 2005. Woods finished the 15-mile, eight-dog race in fifth place. Photo: Diana Haecker, Nome Nuggett

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veterans and families are invited and encouraged. Please send articles and photos with name, phone number, e-mail, complete mailing address and comments to:

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Dispatches from the Front...

Tradition, Commitment

Mark Ward was born into a Guard family. His dad served in the Army, then joined an aviation company in the Alaska National Guard. At 14, Ward began his aviation career as a parts runner. Too young for a driver's license, he picked-up and delivered parts by bicycle and helped in the hangar, fueling aircraft and doing odd jobs for the mechanics.

Shortly after his 16th birthday, he got his private pilot's license (fixed wing), and when he was 17, he joined the Guard. A week after his graduation from high school, he went to basic training and eventually became an Alaska National Guard Black Hawk pilot.

At home, he and his wife, Jennifer, have a son, Braden, a daughter, Kaitlyn, and two Sheltie dogs, Prince and Roady. Last year, the aviation company that Ward is a member of got called up for duty in Iraq.

This is a letter written by his mother, Chris Ward.

When my son's Alaska Army Guard unit was called up for service in Iraq, Mark left home in comfortable certainty that all would be well seen to at his home. He knew that his wife, Jennifer, was quite capable of taking care of any family business, their home and their children, and that his full attention could turn to his duties as a Black Hawk helicopter pilot far away.

At home, Jennifer, mother of two small children and an elementary school teacher, used some of her time to fill bulletin boards with pictures of family who are serving in Iraq. She organized the collection of stocking stuffers to send to those deployed. She also encouraged, collected and mailed letters for holiday time delivery from the students in her school to these soldiers.

She did not accomplish these tasks single-handedly; she did have help and cooperation of other family members and the Guard Rear Detachment people. Her experiences reinforced the feeling of "family," that unity at home; the sharing of concerns and fears and support was as strong and as necessary as the feelings of unity of our Soldiers in the field. Those in the Guard are her neighbors, parents of her students and long time friends.

The first real test came when we heard that a Black Hawk helicopter crashed, killing the crew of four and the eight passengers in the area where our Alaska troops were flying. Jennifer kept her composure, gathering friends to wait with her to hear the names of those involved. Mark was OK, but there were four Alaska families who had lost loved ones. She then set to determine and then do whatever necessary to support those people. In a larger sense, we had all lost "family."

The day after the news of the crash, she received a letter in response to those letters her students had sent. The writer introduced himself, thanked Jennifer for the letters and mentioned that he knew Mark as a "cool guy." He further stated that he would "take care of Mark and see that he got home safe." The letter had been written by the Crew Chief of the downed helicopter.

On Saturday, via e-mail, Jen wrote, "We have just started making Valentines for the guys, and I have organized another round of care packages to be sent from every class in our school. Now more than ever they need us to be there to lift them up...I like to feel I can help in some way - no matter how small."

Is she afraid? Yes! Does she have days and nights of unrest and apprehension? Certainly! Is she holding her life together, putting forth a brave face and strengthening the resolve of those around her? Absolutely!

I believe that this young woman exemplifies the highest standards of the families who stay home, keep things together and allow their Soldier husband, wife or child to accomplish the mission set upon them by their country. She is not alone on this pedestal; as a role model, she shines!

-- Chris Ward



All Smiles in Iraq. Chief Warrant Officer Three Mark Ward (far right) stood proudly with two fellow deployed Soldiers in Iraq. Ward has been deployed since August 2005 to Iraq with B Company, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard.

Photos: Courtesy of Chris Ward

Students Supporting the Troops. Jennifer Ward, wife of Chief Warrant Officer Three Mark Ward of B Company, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation, put up photo boards at Larson Elementary in support of her husband's deployed unit. She keeps the boards up to date and includes items on the boards that the unit has sent from Iraq.



Where in the World

News briefs by Kalei Brooks,
DMVA Public Affairs

Alpha Company Back Safely from War Zone

About 130 Soldiers from Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, Alaska Army National Guard, returned home Jan. 13, after serving a one-year deployment in Iraq.

The unit left Alaska in Oct. 2004, for pre-deployment training at Fort Bliss, Texas, before heading off to Camp Victory, Iraq, in Jan. 2005. This was the first deployment of Alaska Army National Guard combat troops to a war zone since World War II.

"We're excited that they all made it back," said Colonel Stephen Williams, commander, 207th Infantry Group, Alaska Army National Guard. "They did more than 1,000 patrols in the vicinity of Baghdad, and we welcome them home."

While in Iraq, the unit undertook various duties including roadside patrols, random check-point security, base security and neighborhood watches.

"We also went into the schools and distributed clothing, school supplies, soccer balls and sports equipment," said Sergeant Khrist White, of Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry. "At the local hospitals, we met with leaders on needs for the community and gave out equipment such as wheelchairs."

During the welcome home ceremony, the Combat Infantry Company Streamer was presented to the unit. This prestigious accolade is awarded if more than 65 percent of the Soldiers in the unit receive a Combat Infantryman Badge.

"To get the Combat Infantryman Badge you have to have direct fire engagement with the enemy, be an infantryman and operate in a war/



Wish Upon A North Star. Jacob Smith, 10, of Wasilla, who was born with cystic fibrosis, realized a dream March 4, when Iditarod veteran Ramy Brooks mushed through Anchorage with Smith in his sled during the ceremonial start of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. The boy's father, Tom Smith, a member of the Alaska Army National Guard, deployed to Iraq in December. Photo: Al Grillo, Associated Press



Welcome Home, Daddy. Three-year-old Adia greeted her father, Staff Sergeant Jason Keirn, of Ketchikan, during the homecoming celebration of Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, Alaska Army National Guard. The unit conducted more than 1,000 combat patrols while deployed in Baghdad, Iraq. Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Information Officer

combat zone," said Major Joel Gilbert, commander of Alpha Company. "More than 98 percent of our unit received the Combat Infantryman Badge." ■

Echo Company Flies Sherpas Home

Alaska Army Guard aviators of Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation, completed a successful one-year deployment to Iraq and Kuwait.

Ten aviators from Echo Company

flew four C-23B+ Sherpa aircraft to Bryant Army Guard Airfield on March 24. These fixed-wing aircraft were the same planes the unit used during their missions in the Middle East.

A few weeks earlier on Feb. 5, the first contingent of Echo Company arrived home in Anchorage on a commercial airliner at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport.

Twenty-eight members of Echo Company deployed to Iraq in Feb. 2005. They split their time overseas operating from Talil, Iraq, and Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait.



88 Dogs Above. An Alaska Air National Guard rescue team located 88 dogs and seven mushers during a blizzard that interrupted the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest international sled dog race between Alaska and the Yukon Territory. Rescue teams with an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter and an HC-130 Hercules rescue tanker flew into the area east of Fairbanks and were able to locate seven teams. Rescue Coordination Center officials were concerned that a mix of rain, snow and high winds created low visibility conditions and obscured trail markings.

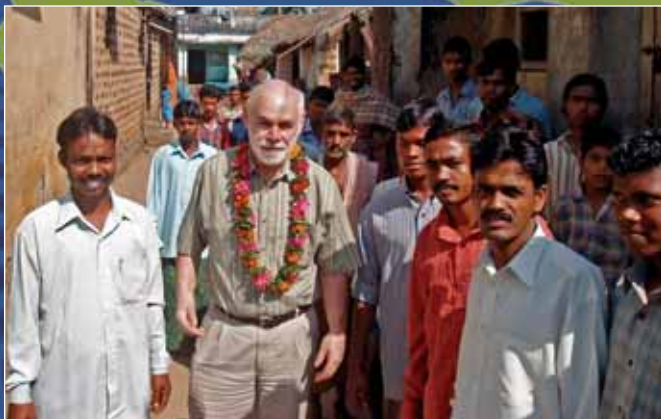


Happy Homecoming. Staff Sergeant Chris Cederberg, of Anchorage, was welcomed home by 5-year-old daughter Analisa, at the homecoming of Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, in January. His Alaska Army National Guard unit mobilized in October 2004 and spent one-year in the war-torn country of Iraq. Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Information Officer



Homeward Bound. Echo Company Soldiers return to Bryant Army Guard Heliport from a year-long tour of duty in Iraq and Kuwait. Families gathered near the hangar as they awaited the arrival of 'their Soldiers.'

Photo: Mark Farmer, topcover.com



DHS&EM Director Deploys to India. In November, Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHS&EM) Director David E. Liebersbach deployed to India for a month at the request of the U.S. State Department. Liebersbach was part of a team tasked with teaching the principals and fundamentals of emergency management to government and military officials, as well as private industry organizations. The trip was put together in response to the devastating earthquake that occurred in the Kashmir region between the countries of India and Pakistan in October 2005. Being chosen by the U.S. State Department for this mission highlighted Liebersbach as one of the top emergency management experts in the United States today. Photo: Courtesy of David Liebersbach, DHS&EM Director



Culture Club in Iraq. Sergeant Paul Bayilla, a 35-year-old Yupik Eskimo from Togiak, is continuing the tradition of his ancestors, serving with the Alaska National Guard's 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry. An expert in surviving and living through harsh weather conditions, he's considered a top Soldier by members of his unit.

Photo: Specialist Michael R. Noggle, 11th PAD

forces early in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Kirkuk Regional Air Base remains in heavy use by coalition forces working in northern Iraq.

"Our troops worked continuously to sustain existing military operations while also making repairs to enable the eventual turnover of the base to Iraqi authorities," said Major Mike Haller, public affairs officer with the Alaska National Guard.

Unit members provided electrical power, water and sewerage services; improved air field facilities; and renovated or constructed buildings for U.S. and Iraqi forces.

"This was this unit's first combat deployment and every Airman did a superb job," Haller said. "They mobilized quickly, hit the ground running and maintained a fast pace throughout the entire deployment."

According to Haller, intense short deployments have become a hallmark of the current Air Force doctrine for fighting the war on terrorism.

"Given these particular kinds of missions in the Air National Guard, we focus on moving quickly to do the job and then returning home so we can refit and be ready for the next taskings," Haller said. ■

"Our primary job was flying cargo, equipment and people throughout the theater of Iraq," said Chief Warrant Officer Two Joseph Rahn, a member of Echo Company. "We went to every city and major airfield in Iraq pretty much."

Echo Company Commander, Major Darrin Dorn, said their mission was challenging. Dorn said there were no words he could find to describe the feeling of being home after the deployment.

"It's phenomenal," said Dorn. "There's no feeling in the world like holding your wife and kids in your arms after a year." ■

Air Guard Civil Engineers Return from Iraq

After completing a four-month deployment to Kirkuk, Iraq, approximately 50 members of the 176th Civil Engineering Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, returned home Jan. 21. While in Iraq, the unit formed the nucleus of an Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, which continued reconstruction of an air base captured by American



My Turn

Major General Craig E. Campbell
Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard & Commissioner,
Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



Our Bold Future

In recent weeks, we've had the very good fortune of hundreds of our Soldiers and Airmen returning home to our families, friends and communities from their assignments in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Our homecomings are remarkable: families, neighbors, employers gathered together at airports, schools, in community meetings, each eager to say "thanks," to say "welcome home," to simply express their own sense of humble gratitude for a job well done, mission accomplished. Veterans organizations, community groups, you name it; they've all stood together as the fabric of this great nation – strong, resilient, determined – a true treasure, a pearl of great price.

Our Commander in Chief, Governor Frank H. Murkowski, is continuously engaged and updated on your assignments, deployments and our transformation activities. He speaks frequently and vigorously of your devotion, willing selfless service, fidelity and honor. He is an ardent supporter here at home. He speaks through his membership with the National Governor's Association, and wherever else is necessary, so that we get the right kinds of practical support we need to accomplish our missions.

Since the war on terrorism began September 11, 2001, we've come to recognize the fact that this is truly unlike any other war in America's history. Yet, having said that, it is important for us to keep the facts in mind: we didn't start it, but we're committed to finish it by driving our enemies from the field, deepening our layers of security here at home, as well as helping our allies to have safer homes in which they too may live.

Coincident to the start of the war, we were already engaged in strategic missions requiring our very best efforts. The Alaska Army National Guard was involved in taking on the Missile Defense mission. Today, it is without peer. Likewise, the Alaska Air National Guard stepped forward to take up space operations with units at Clear Air Force Station and Elmendorf Air Force Base. Each mission is complimentary to the other.

While we recognize the differences in this war, we realize that we're in the midst of reinventing, reorganizing and transforming the way in which we engage our enemies. Not since World

War II, has American ingenuity been so challenged to quickly find and develop practical solutions to aid our Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines in the conduct of war in defense of America. Consistent with our traditions, we're seeing an amalgam of GI ingenuity mixed with civilian know-how to get the right mix of forces, materiel and science together to win the day.

For employees of our Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, transformation means a lot of things. With the Army National Guard, we're very quickly reorganizing our primary formation into a critical "plug and play" Infantry Brigade Combat Team that will have several key components deploying this year. We've seen a significant step forward with our aviation battalion – changing the rotor wings to air assault. We're now awaiting selection and delivery of new light cargo aircraft that will not only improve our federal mission capabilities but also be a resource when disasters or emergencies strike here at home. We expect that the Alaska Air National Guard will share in the operations of the new light cargo aircraft.

Our bold new future is upon us now. An element of our own Alaska Air National Guard will become part of a C-17A Globemaster III associate unit at Elmendorf Air Force Base. The Air Guard will continue to fly the C-130 Hercules, our rescue missions with the HC-130 Hercules rescue tankers and HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters; and, we'll keep our KC-135 Stratotankers at Eielson Air Force Base. What a diversity of missions.

The success we've experienced through our Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Veterans Affairs, Alaska Military Youth Academy, Starbase and so forth, are emblems of the positive qualities that exist in great abundance across the DMVA.

The strength of our department reflects the professional dedication of each of our employees, our Guardmembers and the many volunteers who help us accomplish our missions. Much of our success is owed to our families and their commitment to sustain us in our work. May we never fail to appreciate their sacrifice, devotion and perseverance. ■



Outpouring of Donations. Family Program Director Jan Myers [left], Anchorage Tastee Freez owner, Rich Owens [center], and Operation Santa Claus Chair, Anne Marie Campbell [right], gathered to collect recent donations for Family Programs and Operation Santa Claus on March 3. After learning from an ABC national news report that cash was stolen from the Operation Santa Claus donation jar at Tastee Freez, a Texas woman donated \$50 to compensate for the missing money. Galardi Group Inc., a national franchise company, contributed \$1,000 to Family Programs to be used to support Alaska National Guard members.

Photo: Lieutenant Amy Bombassaro, JFHQ-AK Public Affairs





Veterans

VA Educational Program Approval Back in Alaska

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Information Officer

Alaska students using federal funding from the Montgomery GI Bill now have a local liaison working to make sure the schools and programs they are enrolled in are up to par.

The Alaska State Approving Agency works directly with educational institutions and programs in Alaska to ensure they are complying with federal standards, so students using the GI Bill are getting the best training and education possible. From Oct. 2004 to Jan. 2006, the function of the approving agency for Alaska operated out of the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Muskogee, Okla. Now the Alaska State Approving Agency is appropriately located back in Alaska.

"It is important to have the program approval process back in Alaska," said Mercedes Angerman, who was hired to perform these duties for the State of Alaska and previously worked in this capacity from 1996-2001. "The logistics of Alaskans dealing with the time difference, mailing things back and forth to Oklahoma wasn't efficient – it's difficult to be in touch with someone halfway across the country."

The State of Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs has contracted with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to perform all duties necessary for the inspection, approval and supervision of educational programs pursued by veterans, military members or other eligible people under the

GI Bill. Funding from this source can only be utilized at facilities and programs approved by the State Approving Agency in the state in which the student is seeking an education.

"It is my goal to ensure compliance of existing programs as well as to pursue approval of greater educational and training opportunities to meet the changing needs of those eligible for benefits," Angerman said.

Benefits can be used at a variety of educational facilities. Universities, career schools, on-the-job training, flight schools and apprenticeship programs are all eligible for participation.

To find out if a program is approved or if an application for approval is needed, contact the Alaska State Approving Agency at (907) 428-6513. Those needing information on benefit eligibility should contact the VA directly at (888) 442-4551. ■



VA Educational Program Liaison.

Mercedes Angerman ensures that educational program standards are met as veterans, military members and other eligible individuals use benefits available through the GI Bill.

Photo: Lieutenant Amy Bombassaro, JFHQ-AK Public Affairs

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Alaska Air Guard Rescues World Adventurer

Rosie Swale Pope on Legendary Journey to Raise Funds, Hope for Cancer Victims

Story and Photos by Christine Nangle, JFHQ-AK Public Affairs

On Feb. 25, 2006, severe weather conditions, even by Alaskan standards, on Henry Island put 59-year-old Rosie Swale Pope, a British runner on a journey around the world, in danger. An Alaska Air National Guard HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter, an HC-130 Rescue Tanker, crew and pararescuemen were dispatched to rescue Rosie, who was suffering from frostbite.

"I am forever grateful," Rosie said. "I was stunned by the mixture of kindness, skill and heroism of the Alaska National Guard and how they landed the plane to get me. I am very grateful. They are brilliant, brilliant, brilliant! They are truly an inspiration to me."

Rosie was rescued by the Alaska Air National Guard at Henry Island, which lies about 40 miles northeast of Ruby on the Yukon River. She was en route to Tanana, but severe weather conditions caused her to hunker down and stay put.

Rosie said she had gotten severe frostbite on her left foot and it tripled the size of her big toe.

"I was determined to keep going," she said. "Yet, I realized that I would fail in my run ultimately, if I lost my foot. It was with great reluctance that I asked for help. But the Alaska National Guard helped. They saved my life."

Rosie used her satellite phone to call for help and the Alaska Air Guard immediately responded.

"We launched an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter, with our 210th Rescue Squadron, an HC-130N Hercules Rescue Tanker from our 211th Rescue Squadron and pararescuemen from our 212th Rescue Squadron on Feb. 25," said Major Mike Haller, chief of Public Affairs for the Alaska National Guard. The units are part of the 176th Wing at Kulis Air National Guard Base.

Crew members said the weather conditions were challenging. "Fortunately, Rosie had the communication capabilities with her that allowed for a pinpoint accurate pickup," Haller said.

Rosie plans to return to the exact location on the trail where she was rescued when her foot is fully recovered, and doctors estimate that should take about three weeks. Once back on the trail, Rosie plans on taking extra care of her foot, which is now far more susceptible to frostbite.

"I am very excited to get back out there, and I have gotten great care from the doctors," Rosie said. "I am very much looking forward to returning on my journey."

When Rosie gets back to Tanana, she will have 130 miles to go to get Fairbanks, then she will be on the road system again.

Rosie began running around the world two years ago, after her husband died of prostate cancer, to raise money for charities. She ran across Europe, then Russia, and started her segment in Alaska last fall in Wales, an Eskimo village on the western tip of the Seward Peninsula. So far, Rosie has covered about 19,000 miles and raised more than \$100,000.

She is dedicating the next part of her race to the Alaska National Guard's Operation Santa Claus.

"Running around the world is nothing like seeing a child smile," Rosie said. "I have been through several Native villages and met the children. It warms my heart to know the Alaska National Guard and all the elves put smiles on children's faces during the Christmas season."

When Rosie hits the trail next, she will be thinking of all the members of the Alaska National Guard and the important jobs they do.

"A part of my heart will always be with members of the Alaska National Guard," Rosie said. "Those young people are the best of the best—they will always be with me. They are my heroes, my family, and I love each and every one of them."

Visit Rosie's Web site to learn more about her around the world adventure: www.rosiearoundtheworld.co.uk/. ■



Frostbite Fix. Master Sergeant John Romspert, of the 212th Pararescue Squadron, treated Rosie Swale Pope's frostbit foot Feb. 28 at the PJ Armory in Anchorage. Members of the Alaska Air National Guard rescued her Feb. 25, during a severe Arctic storm at Henry Island. Rosie had been traveling on foot around the world to raise awareness and funds for several charitable agencies.



Rosie's Recovering. Rosie Swale Pope embraced the fur she used to stay warm during her trek across Alaska, while she recuperated from frostbite at the PJ Armory in Anchorage. Rosie plans to return to her wilderness adventures and journey around the world as soon as her foot is completely healed.

Homeland Security & Emergency Management



Mount Augustine Awakens with Flurry of Eruptions

Alaskans Can Get Information at www.volcano.gov and www.ak-prepared.com

By Jamie Littrell, DHS&EM Public Information Officer

Explosive events and clouds of ash marked the re-awakening of Cook Inlet's Mount Augustine volcano in early January. This is the first eruption of the volcano since 1986, when the mountain produced a large ash cloud, which blanketed the Municipality of Anchorage and other Cook Inlet communities.

While the actual eruptions did not start until January, the scientists at the Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO) began monitoring increased activity at Augustine in fall 2005. With all the activity, the staff at the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) have been busy.

"We are working with all of our partner agencies, both state and federal, and potentially impacted communities to make sure the latest information on volcanic activity is being passed to local emergency managers and the general public," said Bob Stewart, DHS&EM's Community Services Emergency Program manager. "We manned the State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) 24 hours a day during the height of Augustine's activity earlier this year to coordinate the flow of information to the

communities and will do so again if activity at the mountain warrants it."

To ensure this information is passed, DHS&EM coordinates teleconferences with local governments and agencies whenever there is a rise in AVO's alert level for the volcano or if there are significant events occurring at the mountain. AVO's Web site is www.avo.alaska.edu/.

All of the latest Augustine information also is posted on a single Web site: www.volcano.gov. The general public has a "one-stop shopping center" for activity reports, weather watches or warnings, and health advisories or alerts. If Mount Augustine were to have a major explosive eruption, the SECC would be activated to coordinate any requests for state assistance from local governments in dealing with a volcanic ash-fall event.

For more information on how you can prepare you and your family for volcanic eruptions, or any other type of natural disasters or terror events, click on the "Citizen Preparedness" link at www.ak-prepared.com. ■



Augustine Ashes the Area. Recent photos of Mount Augustine in Cook Inlet showed the volcano steaming and producing red hot magma flows as it continued to build a new dome. In January, the volcano erupted for the first time in nearly 20 years. Augustine is still active and could erupt again. Photo: Courtesy of Game McGimsey, Alaska Volcano Observatory/U.S. Geological Survey



Outreach Effort to Sitka's Mount Edgecumbe School

Air Guard Travels to Meet with Southeast Alaska Youth

Story and photo by Christine Nangle,
JFHQ-AK Public Affairs

The Alaska Air National Guard is jet setting across the state to educate students about the benefits and opportunities of joining the Alaska Air Guard.

In February, members of the Alaska Air Guard landed a C-130 Hercules aircraft in Sitka, Alaska, for the Native Outreach Program. Their mission was to meet with students from Mount Edgecumbe High School, a unique public boarding school in Sitka – home to the highest caliber of Alaska Native students.

"I think it is really cool that they come here to talk to us at Edgecumbe about something that most of us don't know that much about," said Kara Behrens, a high school senior. Behrens is just one of the dozens of students who attended the presentation to learn about the advantages of joining the Alaska Air Guard.

One of the highlights for the students was touring the C-130 aircraft. While sitting in the C-130 cockpit, Ashley James, a 12th grader, decided to pursue joining the Guard.

"I think this is really cool, and I am going to see if I can join the Air Guard and fly a plane like this someday," James said.

The C-130, with its awesome features and capabilities, shows students an example of the equipment the Air Guard uses during life-saving missions. "The great thing about the aircraft is it generates a lot of interest with the youth, and so it's a great recruiting tool for us," Captain Bob Stratton said.

The Alaska Air Guard trip to Mount Edgecumbe is part of a statewide outreach initiative that recruits and develops relationships with Alaska Natives in rural Alaska. The Native outreach team has traveled to Nome, Kotzebue and Barrow, among other communities.

Students from rural Alaska say the Alaska Air Guard's visits have taught them about some of the opportunities the



Opportunities Take Flight. Members of the Alaska Air National Guard opened up the doors of their C-130 Hercules aircraft to allow students from Mount Edgecumbe High School in Sitka to learn more about the opportunities available in the Air Guard. The 176th Wing, based at Kulis Air National Guard Base in Anchorage, created a special Alaska Native outreach team to create unique and lasting relationships with students in rural Alaska communities.

Alaska Air Guard has to offer, such as college scholarships and careers in search and rescue.

"I want to be an EMT or a nurse, and I also want to fly out to rural villages and help save people by bringing them back to the hospitals in Anchorage," said Mary Jane Standifer, a 10th grader.

The Alaska Air Guard wants more Alaska Natives to be a part of their team, and the Alaska Native outreach program is accomplishing that goal. Since the program began in 2002, the number of new recruits who are Alaska Natives in the Alaska Air Guard has increased 350 percent.

"We would like to increase the number of Alaska Natives in the Alaska Air Guard for two reasons," said Captain

Brandon Jones, an outreach team member. "First, it is the right thing to do; and second, it makes good sense to recruit Alaska Natives because they are more likely to stay in Alaska and joining the Alaska Air Guard provides them the structure, discipline and purpose to be successful."

The Alaska Native outreach program has planned several trips to attend career fairs in the near future including Nome, Savoonga, Barrow, Kotlik and Aniak. As Major Travis Penrod said during a recent presentation, the goal is to welcome Alaska Natives into the Alaska Air Guard, and "the stone that was once rejected by past builders will become the corner stone of the Alaska Air Guard." ■

AMYA Graduating Class



Ready for the Future. Cadets of the Alaska Military Youth Academy tossed their berets in celebration after graduating from the program March 3. The teens received awards and diplomas in a ceremony at Buckner Field House on Fort Richardson. (Upper left inset) Cadet Isiah Wilson, of Anchorage, was congratulated by his grandmother, Pearl Wilson, after graduating from the AMYA. Pearl traveled from Virginia to attend the ceremony. (Upper right inset) Maritta Giles-Gregory was congratulated by Brigadier General (Retired) George Cannelos after receiving her graduation diploma from the AMYA's Challenge Program. Cannelos presented the keynote address, encouraging cadets to continue on the path to success. Photos: Lieutenant Amy Bombassaro, JFHQ-AK Public Affairs

New Educational Benefits Available *REAP What You've Earned As Guardmembers*

Attention all Guardmembers returning from active duty! There's a new Department of Defense education benefit program that gives educational assistance to certain National Guard and Reserve members who are called or ordered to active service in response to a war or national emergency declared by the president or Congress.

The Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) – Chapter 1607, is generally available to members of a reserve component who serve on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, for a contingency operation of at least 90 consecutive days.

An estimated 400,000 individuals who have been called to active duty since Sept. 11, 2001, may be eligible for REAP benefits.

The educational benefit under REAP is a percentage of the GI Bill (Active Duty rate based on the number of continuous days on active duty). The maximum time to claim these benefits is 36 months of assistance; or 48 months of assistance when combining two or more education programs.

Other eligibility criteria and restrictions apply. To find out more about REAP – Chapter 1607 benefits and how to apply, call the VA toll-free education line at (888) 442-4551 or visit www.gibill.va.gov.

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Eielson Air Force Base Leads Future **TOTAL FORCE TR**

Command Posts Form Guard/Active Associate Relationship

By Senior Master Sergeant Donald A. Claveau Jr.,
Superintendent, 168th Air Refueling Wing Command Post, Alaska Air National Guard

How many of us have heard the terms Future Total Force, Joint Force or Transformation? For most of us, these are just another set of buzzwords. We've heard them before but in truth, we generally paid little or no attention.

Leaders at Eielson Air Force Base are incorporating new concepts and ideas into a vision focused on future joint war-fighting capabilities that will benefit the Air Force, the Air National Guard and numerous U.S. and foreign military visitors who train in the nearby air spaces.

The command posts of the 354th Fighter Wing and the 168th Air Refueling Wing recently collocated into Amber Hall on Eielson AFB. The result is a significant milestone in the Total Force Transformation and eventual integration process.

According to officials, "integration, innovation and cooperation" are the critical ingredients for Eielson-based Airmen to succeed as they move forward with their Total Force journey. While the collocation and subsequent integration of active Air Force and Air National Guard command posts is inevitable, it is unprecedented. Some have even expressed a fair measure of skepticism.

We've been working very hard to transform the military parts of the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs to ensure their relevance to America's Army and Air Force ... some will call these bold ideas and forward thinking.

In the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, President George Bush and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld directed the transformation of the Department of Defense. We are all

members of the same team. It is important that we gain a common understanding of the direction that our nation's leaders have set for our armed forces.

Why Change Matters

What is Transformation and why should we care about the Air Force Transformation Flight Plan? A simple way to define what Joint/Total Force means is to break it down into separate elements.

- Total Force means the blending of Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve forces.
- Joint Force refers to the idea that all branches of military service, as well as certain civilian agencies and first responders, learn to work together and at times collocate for the one goal we all hold in common – defense of America and our allies.

We are implementing Total Force Transformation on Eielson AFB. Fallout from the recent Base Realignment and



Our Well Earned Home. Interior residents led a successful bid to retain Eielson Air Force Base as a significant center for Air Force operations in Alaska. Photo: U.S. Air Force



An Air Bridge in Action. The Alaska Air Guard's 168th Air Refueling Wing provides 'prime-time' air to air refueling for training missions in Alaska and war time operations across the North Pacific and Asia. Photo: Senior Airman Joshua Strang, 354th Wing Public Affairs

TRANSFORMATION

Initiative

Closure (BRAC) recommendations is causing a significant transfer of assets and missions.

According to the Department of Defense, in its 2004 publication *Elements of Defense Transformation*, "This will require a great demonstration of agility when it comes to communications in a Total Force scenario. The overall goal is not only increased interoperability, but also increased interdependency as this system of systems is put into place."

Since the Pacific Air Forces' Operational Readiness Inspection, in October 2004, the 168th Air Refueling Wing continued to improve utilization of its command post team.

In an article in *Warriors* magazine, Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard, said, "We've been working very hard to transform the military parts of the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs to ensure their relevance to America's Army and Air Force ... some will call these bold ideas and forward thinking."

The Air National Guard brings continuity and long-term experience to the command post, and will prove to be a great complement to their Total Force partners.

The composite command post model integrates the previously separate Air National Guard and Air Force command posts into one command and control facility.

Each wing retains principal responsibility for their respective weapon systems, and maintains separate organizational structures and chains of command. However, the two elements

will share the same facility and, over time, will integrate at the operational level. This integrated command and control facility is at the forefront of the Future Total Force, providing combatant commanders with a single control node for all forces assigned or attached to Eielson AFB.

According to officials, conceptual plans for a future Joint Total Force Command Center have been in development since December 2004. The vision is for a new composite headquarters, command post and alert facility with space to accommodate a number of military components as well as key civil agencies.

State-of-the-art command and control facilities and systems on Eielson AFB are vital to the future mission success of our joint war-fighting capability. The mission effectiveness of Eielson's Guard/Active associate command post, coupled with future investments in Eielson's infrastructure, will reap huge dividends for the partnership of the 168th Air Refueling Wing and 354th Fighter Wing, as well as for Alaska and our nation's defense. ■

Please visit these Web sites for additional information:

- <https://airguard.ang.af.mil/CF/OT/briefings.cfm>
- <https://www.futuretotalforce.hq.af.mil/>



Nature's Light Show. The sky is aglow with Northern Lights dancing above Bear Lake near Eielson Air Force Base. Photo: Senior Airman Joshua Strang, 354th Wing Public Affairs



Ready to Serve. Alaska's premiere tanker task force is online to refuel visiting U.S. and allied military aircraft training in Interior Alaska year around.

Photo: Senior Airman Joshua Strang, 354th Wing Public Affairs

Pacing of Deployments, Redeployments Steady

Preparation, Training, Transformation Continues for Arctic Warriors

By Colonel Mike Bridges, Deputy Commander, 207th Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard



Scouts Shooting in the Snow. Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 297th Infantry, Alaska Army National Guard, performed squad battle drills during a snowy March training day. A production crew was on hand filming the unit for an upcoming documentary to air in July on the History Channel entitled, "Alaska: Dangerous Territory." Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Information Officer

The 207th Brigade is continuing a whirlwind of activity in support of our state and nation. Currently, we have more than 130 Soldiers on federal active duty deployed overseas in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Home Again

One hundred thirty Soldiers of Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, returned from their yearlong assignment in Iraq. They served with Soldiers of the 29th Brigade, Hawaii Army National Guard. Nearly every Soldier earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge or the Combat Action Badge.

Alpha Company's hometown communities put on some amazing "welcome home" events and continue to support them. Several of these Soldiers have volunteered to deploy again later this year with the Infantry Battalion readying for the next overseas rotation.

The Soldiers of Echo Company, 1/207th Aviation, returned from a year supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. They flew their C23B+ Sherpa airplanes in and out of Iraq and Kuwait. Due to the intensity of their missions, they were written up in an Army publication, which commented on their Alaskan "Bush Pilot" roots and some of the unique flying conditions in which they used their Alaska experiences to assist in their mission success. More than 30 Soldiers took part.

On Station

More than 50 Soldiers of Bravo Company, 1/207th Aviation, remain on station in Iraq. As an Air Assault unit, they provide direct support for the 172nd Brigade and the 101st Airborne Division. We all know of the loss of our comrades in January when one of our UH-60L Black Hawk helicopters went down, killing all 12 on board – including four of our Alaska

Guardmembers. We mourn their loss. We will honor their memories and sacrifice by continuing our missions in support of the "Long War" against terrorism.

The third, two-man team rotation of our Soldiers, in support of the Mongolian contingent in Iraq, deployed recently. They conducted "battle hand-off" with the team they replaced. This relationship with the Mongolian forces continues to deepen and add value in the growing exchanges between Alaska and Mongolia.

Training with the Afghan National Army was nearly complete, as of this writing, for our Alaska Soldiers. Six members of the team recently returned home. Two Soldiers volunteered to extend for two months. Each Soldier came from 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry.

The Horizon

The Alaska Army National Guard is readying to deploy the next two units: a large command and control element from the 207th Brigade Headquarters and 297th Support Battalion to Afghanistan; and, our biggest deployment, so far, an entire infantry battalion of approximately 600 Soldiers to Iraq.

Meanwhile, the 207th Brigade (Scout) continues the massive transformation, becoming one of the Army's new infantry brigade combat teams. It continues to be a busy, exciting and "transformational" time for the brigade as we train, deploy, redeploy, transform and evolve. Our Soldiers continue to achieve and succeed in their missions.

In Our Corner

The foundations of our success are our families and employers. They are the unsung heroes who make all that we do as members of the Alaska National Guard possible. ■

Air Guardsmen Continue Rotations in Afghanistan

Members of the 176th Wing Arrive Home on a C-130 Hercules Aircraft

By Lieutenant Amy Bombassaro, JFHQ-AK Public Affairs

KULIS ANG BASE, Alaska... After providing humanitarian air drops and airlift missions in Afghanistan, 20 members of the 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, returned to Anchorage March 18. The wing is the lead unit of the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron based in Bagram in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Guardsmen are the first cycle to return home from the operation, conducted in two-month rotations over the next one to two years. They are alternating through the cycles, spending two months deployed followed by two months at home.

Family, friends and Guardsmen greeted the aviators of the 144th Squadron, 176th Maintenance Group and other squadrons after arriving at Kulis Air Base on a C-130 Hercules aircraft.

Beth, Sophia and Hannah Minney leaped into the arms of their father, Lieutenant Colonel John Minney, as he stepped off the aircraft. After they had the chance to greet their father, he was welcomed again--this time by his wife, Lisa. After much time away from their father, the children each plan to spend a special day with him. Beth, 10, said the National Guard often calls her father to duty.

"It wasn't really different because he goes on Guard trips all the time," Beth said. "This was more intimidating, though, because he was in Afghanistan."

The crews flew supplies to troops in remote areas, and conducted humanitarian missions delivering food and firewood to villages.



A Sweet Hello. Beth Minney, 10, watches as Alaska Air National Guard Lieutenant Colonel John Minney, of the 144th Airlift Squadron, reunites with his wife, Lisa, after returning from a two-month deployment to Afghanistan. Photo: Specialist Karima L. Mares, JFHQ-AK

Captain Jim Van Hoomissen, a C-130 pilot, said the mission was some of the most rewarding flying of his career.

"We learned how far we could go and how well we could work together," Van Hoomissen said. "It's a high threat area and we had to be on the ball." ■

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Guard Soldiers Earn Extra Pay for Recruit Leads

G-RAP Offers Participants Up To \$2,000; Sharing Guard With Friends Can Pay Off

Story and photos by Lieutenant Amy Bombassaro, JFHQ-AK Public Affairs

Soldiers of the Alaska National Guard now have the opportunity to earn cash rewards for bringing new recruits into the Guard. The Army National Guard launched the final phase of the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) recently, expanding the program to all 54 states and territories.

G-RAP offers participants \$1,000 for bringing in a prospect and another \$1,000 if that recruit goes to basic training. Soldiers earn \$50 for completing the online training session. The training course encourages Guard members to share their own personal experiences, ask potential recruits their needs and desires, and to honestly speak about service risks and rewards.

Bringing leads to recruiters is not new for Soldiers. G-RAP formalizes that tradition by paying them for their efforts on a contract basis, according to Lieutenant Colonel Beth Law, Alaska National Guard Recruiting and Retention division commander.

"We're compensating Soldiers for assisting the recruiters in gaining enlistments and building the force," Law said. "If someone brings in three friends, that Soldier has the potential to make \$6,000."

Private First Class Brad Jorgensen completed the online certification this week and already has prospects lined up. The

infantryman completed basic combat training last summer and will attend his advanced individual training after graduating from Chugiak High School in May.

Jorgensen said he has always shared his personal Guard experiences with friends, including the education benefits he plans to receive once he begins college next fall.

"I've been spreading the word to get people interested in the Guard," Jorgensen said.

G-RAP is a part of the National Guard's transformation in its process of filling ranks.

According to officials, typical recruiters currently spend about 80 percent of their time prospecting and 20 percent processing. The intent of the program is to focus the recruiter's duties more on the processing aspect of enlistments.

Officials add that for the Guard, it also returns to community based recruiting: utilizing those people most uniquely positioned to tell the Guard story – members of the Guard themselves.

Alaska National Guard Soldiers can learn more about G-RAP, as well as how to apply to become a contracted Recruiting Assistant at www.guardrecruitingassistant.com. ■



Recruiting Assistants Earn Extra Cash. Specialist Logan Haller, a Soldier with JFHQ-AK Medical Detachment, registered online for the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program with help from Specialist Karima Mares, of JFHQ-AK Public Affairs, at the Title Wave Books Kaladi Cafe in Anchorage March 9. Soldiers can receive \$50, t-shirts and other recruiting materials for completing the online training.

Citizen Soldiers... Always Ready, Always There... Again

Story and photo by Lieutenant Colonel Tom Cobaugh,
176th Maintenance Squadron

AFGHANISTAN... Not since World War II has our country seen the numbers of Citizen Soldiers and Airmen involved in a conflict as we see currently. More than 60 years ago, the entire National Guard was called to duty.

In his book, "*Citizen Soldiers*," historian and author Stephen Ambrose defines the title of his book as the term for describing Americans who were drafted from their civilian job, served in one of the branches of the military to accomplish what had to be done and then returned home when the mission was complete.

In that era, most Soldiers were not "professional" in the sense that they did not intend to remain in the military as a career. Most were doing a job they felt had to be done. They all longed to return to their families and previous civilian occupations.

These days, it is fairly common knowledge that about 40 percent of the forces in the Afghan area of operations are members of America's National Guard and Reserves. So, in a practical sense, almost every other military person you see in the chow hall, driving a vehicle, on the flight line or in a support function is a Guardmember or Reservist.

Our "Citizen Soldiers" come from all walks of life. Take Technical Sergeant Mark McDaniel from the Missouri Air National Guard, an Electronic Warfare Specialist. He has served with the Guard for 20 years. He has deployed to Afghanistan seven times since the War on Terror began. He has started and interrupted completion of medical school. Yet, he has voluntarily returned time and again. When he completes this current deployment, he plans to finish medical school and become a doctor.

Another professional, both in civilian life and in his military life is Major "Toph" Michl from Alaska. Michl is a pilot for FedEx in his "real life." As a Guard instructor pilot, he flies the C-130H2 for the Alaska Air National Guard. A graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, he accumulated active duty C-130 experience prior to joining the 144th Airlift Squadron six years ago. When he is deactivated from this presidential call-up, he plans to return to his job at FedEx.

Master Sergeant Harold Patterson is a C-130 Hercules crew chief from the Ohio Air National Guard. Patterson retired from working in the Guard full time after 37 years in the hydraulics shop and on the flight line. He is here in theater after being called-up. This is his eighth deployment to Afghanistan. He is a well-traveled fellow who has served on many other deployments and trips to Europe, Central and South America and the Far East, including Vietnam. He has a job in civil aviation waiting for him when he returns home.

Master Sergeant Jody Immel claims Arizona as her home. She teaches junior high students. Though she lives in Arizona, she is attached to the Wyoming Air National Guard as an Air Ground Equipment technician. This is her fifth rotation to the desert with the Guard. She has 21 years of combined military experience with active duty and the Guard. When her current commitment is fulfilled, she will return to her classroom full of



Map: United Nations



A Day in the Desert. Local Afghans gathered outside Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, during a recent deployment of the 176th Maintenance Squadron from Kulis Air National Guard Base in Anchorage.

seventh graders in Kingman, Arizona.

Though Guardsmen take their share of ribbing about being the "old guys," these Airmen, and thousands like them, bring an incredible amount of experience to the war. Many have worked on their weapon systems for 20 years or more. It is not uncommon to have crew chiefs with 30-plus years experience on the same aircraft.

In fact, during one recent informal survey, eight out of 26 crew chiefs held more than 20 years experience – two of those eight had more than 30 years of crew chief experience!

In addition to their collective technical expertise, these Airmen gain a sense of "family" within their units and among different units. Rather than moving every few years, most choose to establish a home and remain with their particular unit for 20 years or more. They are friends, neighbors, members of the same civic organizations and churches together, teammates, hunting and fishing partners. Deep, long-lasting friendships are the norm.

Across Alaska's National Guard, approximately two-thirds are "traditional" or part-time Guardmembers serving one weekend per month and three weeks a year if they are not aircrew members. They have their civilian careers waiting for them as they complete their assignments with the Guard.

These are patriots willing to set aside their civilian careers to become a part of something bigger than themselves. They leave the comfort of their civilian routines and step forward as Citizen Soldiers to accomplish the mission their country needs done.

Today's Guard and Reserve members carry forward the traditions of their forbearers as true "Citizen Soldiers."

One cannot help but admire the Guard's pride in its missions. To sum up a Guardsman's service one could say, "They are uncompromisingly proud of being in the Guard and serving America." These "Citizen Soldiers" are an integral and important part of the "Total Force" policy we see in evidence all around Afghanistan. ■



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You have the right to be reemployed in your civilian job if you leave that job to perform service in the uniformed service and:

- ☆ you ensure that your employer receives advance written or verbal notice of your service;
- ☆ you have five years or less of cumulative service in the uniformed services while with that particular employer;
- ☆ you return to work or apply for reemployment in a timely manner after conclusion of service; and
- ☆ you have not been separated from service with a disqualifying discharge or under other than honorable conditions.

If you are eligible to be reemployed, you must be restored to the job and benefits you would have attained if you had not been absent due to military service or, in some cases, a comparable job.

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If you:

- ☆ are a past or present member of the uniformed service;
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- ☆ are obligated to serve in the uniformed service;

then an employer may not deny you any of the following because of this status:

- ☆ initial employment;
- ☆ reemployment;
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- ☆ promotion; or
- ☆ any benefit of employment.

In addition, an employer may not retaliate against anyone assisting in the enforcement of USERRA rights, including testifying or making a statement in connection with a proceeding under USERRA, even if that person has no service connection.

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ENFORCEMENT

- ☆ The U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) is authorized to investigate and resolve complaints of USERRA violations.
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- ☆ If you file a complaint with VETS and VETS is unable to resolve it, you may request that your case be referred to the Department of Justice or the Office of Special Counsel, depending on the employer, for representation.
- ☆ You may also bypass the VETS process and bring a civil action against an employer for violations of USERRA.

The rights listed here may vary depending on the circumstances. This notice was prepared by VETS, and may be viewed on the internet at this address: <http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra/poster.pdf>. Federal law requires employers to notify employees of their rights under USERRA, and employers may meet this requirement by displaying this notice where they customarily place notices for employees.



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Publication Date—February 2005



Family Support

Families Prepare for Deployments

Outreach Key to Success for Youth and Adults Alike

Story by Lieutenant Amy Bombassaro, JFHQ-AK Public Affairs

As Alaska National Guard members gear up for deployments, Family Programs stresses that preparing families for separation is as imperative as the Soldier's combat training prior to mobilizing.

To provide families with resources that will enable them to manage the separation effectively, the organization is hosting mobilization and deployment training sessions across the state, according to Family Programs Director Jan Myers.

Chief Warrant Officer Two Peter Smith of Bravo Company, 1/207th Aviation, deployed to Iraq in August 2005. His wife, Lori Smith, said that although her husband had previously deployed on short-term missions, this was his first yearlong operation in a combat environment. She added that while most Guard families have experience dealing with separations to meet traditional Guard obligations, the mobilization and deployment training opened her eyes to the reality of a combat deployment.

"The training gave me an idea of what a year really looks like and means," Smith said. "It teaches you that all types of separation aren't equal."

Smith added that hearing other spouses voice their questions, ranging from legal details to the impact on relationships, reassured her own concerns. This was the first time she had to think seriously about decisions regarding a will, power of attorney and other considerations for managing her family in her husband's absence.

"It's not easy sometimes to have to do those undesirable things when you're working from an emotion-based thought process," Smith said.

The briefings are mandatory for deployable Soldiers. They are strongly encouraged for family and friends directly affected by the Soldier's deployment. Those who are not within driving distance of the training locations may be eligible for Invitational Travel Orders to cover lodging and travel expenses.

Representatives from various agencies provide information regarding deployment benefits and family management. Topics include TRICARE benefits, financial transition, legal resources, civilian employment rights, emergency contacts and dealing with the media.

Families also have the opportunity to discuss emotional issues that often arise during a separation. Sessions present subjects such as communicating during deployment, changes in relationships and stress management.

Myers said the separation can rouse traumatic feelings in family members in some cases when Soldiers have never been away from home. She brings Soldier and family counselors to the sessions to support and advise spouses, parents and children.

"This lets them know their feelings are normal," Myers said. "We help them find ways to cope with the separation over the next year."

Family members between 7-18 years old also have the opportunity to participate in youth training simultaneously during the adult sessions. ■



Good Luck, Safe Travels. Private Christopher Bosco, of 2nd Battalion, 297th Infantry, performed traditional Yupik dancing during a lunch break at the Bethel mobilization and deployment training session in March. The dances represent good luck in the Soldiers' travels. Photo: Ken Fankhauser, JFHQ-AK Public Affairs



Paperwork and Preparation. A Soldier with the 207th Infantry Brigade filled out his insurance paperwork during a mobilization and deployment training session in Bethel with the help of representatives from Tri-West. Hands-on instruction helps Soldiers get paperwork in order as well as understand it. Photo: Ken Fankhauser, JFHQ-AK Public Affairs



Who We Are...

What sets the National Guard apart from the other military forces?

**Private
Paul Pingayak**
207th Brigade



"I feel it's the branch that is closer to families."

**Specialist
Robert Obrien**
207th Brigade



"The Alaska Guard is a deep tradition in my family."

Sharon Jones
Human Resources Office



"The Guard is community influenced. You can go home at night and take a break from the military routine."

**Captain
Russell Edwards**
Rescue Coordination Center



"Continuity – we work with the same people for long periods of time."

**Master Sergeant
Joyce Davis**
Air Guard Headquarters



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State Takes Action to Plan, Prepare for Avian, Pandemic Influenza

Story contributors: Lieutenant Amy Bombassaro, JFHQ-AK Public Affairs; Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Information Officer; and Jamie Littrell, DHS&EM Public Information Officer

Amid the media frenzy and reports of a possible pandemic flu and bird flu outbreak, State of Alaska officials are taking steps to ensure Alaskans are safe if an emergency should arise.

Unlike seasonal influenza, pandemic influenza occurs when a new virus develops. It can be highly contagious and cause widespread illness and death due to lack of immunity. Researchers believe pandemic influenza strains develop from genetic changes in influenza viruses that have infected birds and other animals.

The Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs has teamed up with Health and Social Services to form contingents to lead Alaska's efforts to plan and prepare for the possibility of avian influenza reaching Alaska, potentially leading to an outbreak of pandemic influenza.

These agencies created the Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group and Interagency Incident Management Team (IMT) in response to Governor Frank Murkowski's Administrative Order No. 228.

Jim Butchart, Deputy Director for Emergency Management under the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM), serves as the IMT's Incident Commander.

"The IMT is made up of representatives from local, state and federal agencies working together to develop a public outreach plan to educate and inform Alaskans on avian and pandemic flu," Butchart said. "[They are] developing a response plan in case the flu strain mutates and leads to a pandemic flu event in the state."

The MAC Group consists of more than two dozen agencies. Their primary function is to provide policy and priority direction to the IMT, according to Butchart.

Today, wild fowl continue to transmit the latest strain of avian flu, known as H5N1, to domestic poultry stocks from Asia to Africa, Europe and the Middle East. So far, those who have contracted the H5N1 virus had contact with infected domestic poultry or the bodily fluids of infected birds.

No cases of infections have been reported in persons who have handled wild birds. Additionally, there are no reports of people contracting the H5N1 strain from each other. World health officials believe the virus has the potential to mutate and spread person to person.

"Right now, avian flu has not reached Alaska and Alaskans are not at risk," said Dr. Richard Mandsager, State Director of Public Health.

He added that if the current strain of H5N1 reaches the state, most Alaskans would not be at risk unless they are in close, regular contact with domestic poultry.

"If the H5N1 virus were to change form and acquire the ability to spread easily from person to person, the state would put into place its plan to mitigate the effects of a pandemic in our state," he said. "Health officials can't say for sure if that will happen, but we are preparing for that scenario just in case."

For more information on what you, your family or your

business can do to prepare for avian and pandemic flu, please go to www.pandemic.flu.alaska.gov. For more information on the IMT or MAC Group, contact the DHS&EM Public Information Office at (907) 428-7052. ■

Legacy

Passages from *Soldiers of the Mists*

Legacy will rejoin *Warriors* in the next edition. A record number of awards were presented to our Soldiers, Airmen and employees. We wanted to honor their services.

— Major Mike Haller, Managing Editor, *Warriors*



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THE FACTS:	SO BE PREPARED:
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■ You, your friends, your family could be next.	■ Spend the night wherever you choose to celebrate.



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Awards • Decorations • Promotions

Legion of Merit



LTC Shiela Kopczynski JFHQ-AK (Army)
CW4 Harry James 207th Avn
CW4 Bruce Perry 207th Avn

Bronze Star



Maj Carl R. Alvarez 168th SFS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal



SGT Phillip Chang 117th MPAD

Meritorious Service Medal



SFC Nicholas Cayford JFHQ-AK (Army)
LTC Lyle Crinklaw JFHQ-AK (Army)
LTC Shiela Kopczynski JFHQ-AK (Army)
LTC Marc Coulombe 207th Bde
SFC Donald Sanford 207th Bde
SGT Max Agayar 1st Bn

SGT Dale Kriska 1st Bn
SSG Sean Octuck 1st Bn
SGT John Carl 2nd Bn
MSG Terrance Pardee 3rd Bn
MAJ Dawn Pate Spt Bn
MAJ Dennis Carman 49th Space
MAJ Paul Darling 49th Space
CW4 Dorothy Stenstrom-Mozelle . . 207th Avn
SSG Timothy Trapp 207th Avn
CW4 Jon Chapman 207th Avn
CW3 James Crockett 207th Avn
CW4 David Head 207th Avn
Col Lawrence Appel 168th OG
MSgt Michael Harper 168th ARS
Maj Claude Swammy 168th OG
Lt Col Tracy Saltmarsh 168th ARS
SMSgt William Perry Jr. 168th SFS
MSgt Frank Chmelik Jr. 168th AMXS
Lt Col Jay Williams 168th AMXS
SMSgt William Dixon 168th MXG
MSgt Kathryn Laubscher 176th WG
MSgt Allen Minish 144th AS
MSgt Thomas Pirro 144th AS
Maj Amy Carle 144th AS
MSgt Douglas Echternacht 144th AS
MSgt Jennifer Keese 144th AS

MSgt Jeffrey Watson 144th AS
CMSgt Gary Lanham 144th AS
MSgt Gordon Heinen 144th AS
MSgt Scott Stewart 144th AS
Maj David Mcphetres 144th AS
Lt Col Dirk Cain 144th AS
Lt Col John Minney 144th AS
MSgt Joseph Dziuban 176th ACS
Lt Col Samuel Walker 176th ACS
Lt Col Richard Bouska 176th ACS
MSgt Mark Eggleton 176th ACS
TSgt Kevin Pollard 176th ACS
MSgt Edward Vannatta 176th ACS
SMSgt Eleonore Lawson 176th AMXS
MSgt Russell Kendall 176th AP
MSgt Eric Welling 176th LRS
MSgt Richard Clampitt 176th MDG
Maj Marie Wauters 176th MSF
MSgt Lisa Coker 176th MSF
Lt Col Karen Mansfield 176th MSF
SMSgt Carl Brooks 176th OG
SMSgt Kevin Martin 176th OG
Lt Col Paul Holmquist 176th OSF
MSgt Wendell Matthieu 176th SFS
Maj Roger Leblanc 176th SVF
MSgt Paul Barendregt 210th RQS
MSgt Michael Murphy 210th RQS
SMSgt Dean Laubscher 211th RQS
CMSgt Van Grainge 211th RQS
SMSgt John Loomis 212th RQS
SMSgt Paul Reddington 212th RQS
CPT Dwayne Wrifel 117th MPAD
SFC Ken Denny 117th MPAD

Air Medal



Maj Alvin Rice 168th ARS
1 Lt Ryan King 168th ARS
Capt. John Morse 210th RQS
Maj Michael Stowers 210th RQS

Joint Forces Commendation Medal



CPL John Chriswell 117th MPAD

Army Commendation Medal



SSG Andre Scott JFHQ-AK (Army)
SGT Tyson Drew 207th Bde
SSG Jere Just 207th Bde
SFC Rodger Morrison R&R
SGT Robert Quates 3rd Bn
SPC Michael Coleman 117th MPAD
SGT Laura Griffin 117th MPAD



Lawmakers Earn Recognition. Alaska State Representative Richard Foster, right, recently received the Patrick Henry Award from the National Guard Association of the United States for his outstanding long-term service to the military. The award recognizes civic leaders who, while in a position of great responsibility, distinguish themselves with exceptional service to the U.S. Armed Forces, specifically the National Guard. Foster, a combat veteran, understands the need for quality facilities, equipment, training, education and public support for a strong homeland defense. "It is a great, great honor that it was presented to me," Foster said. "I have such great respect for the military and their staff. It is one of the great highlights of my career." In addition, Representative Bob Lynn was honored for his support of the Alaska National Guard, particularly the Family Readiness Programs and his championing efforts to secure program funding. Lynn was presented with a distinctive heritage print of a P-40 fighting back at the attack on Pearl Harbor. "Just to be able to help the Guard and the military in any way is an award in itself because they are the cutting edge of the sword," Lynn said. "But I am honored beyond words." Major General Craig Campbell, the Adjutant General of Alaska, presented the awards on Feb. 8, in Juneau.

Photo: Courtesy of House Majority Press Office

Air Force Commendation Medal



Capt Eric Aarseth 176th WG
 Capt John Morse 176th WG
 MSgt Rodney Crews 176th WG
 SSgt Robin Spencer 176th WG
 Capt Christopher Prince 144th AS
 Capt John Owens 144th AS
 Maj Wesley Mooty 144th AS
 Maj Charles Fitzgerald 144th AS
 MSgt Shawn Gannon 144th AS
 TSgt Scotty Meek 144th AS
 MSgt Steven Adams 144th AS
 TSgt Christine Encelewski 144th AS
 TSgt Burr Maly 144th AS
 SSgt Sharon Mccool 144th AS
 Maj Keo Bailey 176th ACS
 TSgt Lisa Vincent 176th ACS
 TSgt Jennifer Demro 176th ACS
 SSgt Wayland Baker 176th ACS
 SrA Michael Lajcsak 176th AP
 SrA Matthew Soukup 176th AP
 SSgt Jonathan Diel 176th CF
 SSgt Amanda Geaney 176th MDG
 SSgt Kevin Bratcher 176th MDG
 Maj Charles Sims 176th OSF
 MSgt David Leynes 206th CSS
 MSgt Rodney Hansen 206th CCS
 TSgt William Lewis 206th CCS
 Capt Candis Olmstead AFRES

Joint Forces Achievement Medal



CPL John Chriswell 117th MPAD

Army Achievement Medal



SSgt Jennifer Meddaugh JFHQ-AK (Air)
 1LT Kirk Thorsteinson 49th Space
 SFC Rhame Grubbs 49th Space
 SGT David Hurlbut 207th Avn

Air Force Achievement Medal



SSgt Kaleo Vicente 168th SFS
 SrA Christopher Adams 168th SFS
 TSgt Aaron Helt 168th MSG
 SSgt Diana Holmes 168th MSG
 SSgt Dakonya Lemke 168th MSG
 Lt Col Laura Kelm 176th WG
 Maj Michael Cummings 176th WG
 SSgt Susan Rowland 176th WG
 SrA Robert Moen 144th AS
 CMSgt Patricia Cordell 176th CF
 TSgt Todd Maynard 176th SFS
 TSgt Gary Franklin 176th AMXS
 SrA Dorothy Sorensen 176th AMXS
 TSgt Benjamin Devries 176th AMXS
 SSgt Robert Wray 176th LRS
 Sra Robert Baldwin 176th LRS

MSgt William Gotti 176th MDG
 MSgt Geraldine Kile 176th MDG
 SrA Marc Ocampo 176th MDG
 TSgt Ryan Voigt 176th MDG
 TSgt Kim Groat 176th MDG
 SrA Gina Gonzalez 176th MDG
 SMSgt Mark Carlson 176th MXS
 SrA Kayla Tomlinson 176th MXS
 MSgt Karl Howard 176th MXG
 Maj Mike Haller JFHQ-AK (Air)

Army Good Conduct Medal



SFC Thelma Kelly JFHQ-AK (Army)
 SGM Peter Jensen R&R
 SFC Diana Watson R&R
 SFC Elizabeth Sanvig 207th Bde
 SSG Leslie Dirkes 207th Bde
 SFC Donald Teter 2nd Bn
 SPC Danny Ancheta 3rd Bn
 SGT Alden Balalong 3rd Bn
 SPC Robert Bates 3rd Bn
 PFC Nicholas Beckford 3rd Bn
 PFC Robert Bishop 3rd Bn
 SGT Kristopher Brewster 3rd Bn
 SPC Jerry Caspersen 3rd Bn
 SPC Mark Castillo 3rd Bn
 SPC Randy Catterson 3rd Bn
 SPC Daniel Clark 3rd Bn
 CPL Kevin Clevenger Kevin 3rd Bn
 SPC Jesse Cohen 3rd Bn
 SSG Jerod Cook 3rd Bn
 PFC Kalei Curbow 3rd Bn
 SPC Lloyd Davis 3rd Bn
 SPC Johnny Day 3rd Bn
 SPC Paul Demmert 3rd Bn
 SPC Christopher Dickerson 3rd Bn
 SGT Matthew Dubois 3rd Bn
 SPC Matthew Duddles 3rd Bn
 SPC Eti Faaaliga 3rd Bn
 SGT Eusebio Fangonilo 3rd Bn
 SSG Ken Felchle 3rd Bn
 SSG Gregory Fite 3rd Bn
 SPC Jeremy Goff 3rd Bn
 SGT Earl Hansen 3rd Bn
 SGT Franklin Hoffman 3rd Bn
 SPC Caleb Irwin 3rd Bn

PV2 Anthony Jackson 3rd Bn
 SPC Ronald Kavanaugh 3rd Bn
 SSG Kason Keirn 3rd Bn
 SGT Christopher Kratt 3rd Bn
 SGT Joshua Larsen 3rd Bn
 SPC Joel Laxamana 3rd Bn
 SPC Matthew Lay 3rd Bn
 CPL Ronaldo Lumba 3rd Bn
 SGT Michael Lundberg 3rd Bn
 SPC Ryan Madros 3rd Bn
 SPC Partyk Malinowski 3rd Bn
 SPC Anthony Manacio 3rd Bn
 PFC Moefili Manu 3rd Bn
 SPC Romeo Manzano 3rd Bn
 SPC Kirk McCormick 3rd Bn
 SGT John McGrane 3rd Bn
 SPC Robert McPhail 3rd Bn
 SPC Michael Mercer 3rd Bn
 SPC Mark Mesdag 3rd Bn
 SPC Pichardo Minaya 3rd Bn
 SGT Orlando Morera 3rd Bn
 SPC Daniel Nelson 3rd Bn
 PV2 Antonio Nocelo 3rd Bn
 SPC Matthew Nore 3rd Bn
 SPC Christopher Pagsoligan 3rd Bn
 PV2 Rodney Perez 3rd Bn
 PFC Christopher Peterson 3rd Bn
 SGT Frank Peterson 3rd Bn
 CPL Timothy Rhoades 3rd Bn
 SPC Artemio Rivera 3rd Bn
 SPC Tramerio Roberts 3rd Bn
 SPC Enrico Sanchez 3rd Bn
 SGT Dylan Saunders 3rd Bn
 SFC Robert Shaw 3rd Bn
 SPC Jeffery Simeonoff 3rd Bn
 SPC Justin Smith 3rd Bn
 SGT Robert Stauffer 3rd Bn
 SPC Brandon Steele 3rd Bn
 SGT Bruce Temmis 3rd Bn
 SPC David Tempelhoff 3rd Bn
 SPC Ediver Thompson 3rd Bn
 SPC Russell Throckmorton 3rd Bn
 SPC Mark Velasco 3rd Bn
 SPC Reynaldo Visda 3rd Bn
 SPC Dennis Vizmanos 3rd Bn
 SGT Mark Wardell 3rd Bn
 SPC Nolan Weddel 3rd Bn
 SPC Brett Weimer 3rd Bn

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SGT Khris White 3rd Bn
 SPC Jacob Williams 3rd Bn
 SPC Ronald Wilson 3rd Bn
 SFC Troy Zimmerman 3rd Bn
 SSG James Zuelow 3rd Bn
 SFC Jerome Arisman Spt Bn
 SFC Jason Nesslage Spt Bn
 SSG Tracy Quigley Spt Bn
 1SG Dennis Covell 207th Avn
 SSG Kevin Forster 207th Avn
 SPC Lily Fox 207th Avn
 SGT Ricky Freeman 207th Avn
 SPC Eric Haddock 207th Avn
 SSG Gordon Howe 207th Avn
 SGT Lee Kassay 207th Avn
 SGT Charles Collins 207th Avn
 SPC Jacob Melson 207th Avn
 SGT Matthew Okerlund 207th Avn
 SGT Levi Roy 207th Avn
 SPC Curtis Watson 207th Avn
 SPC Al Wiggins 207th Avn

Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal



MSG Kathy Thompson . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)
 SFC Edward Washington . . JFHQ-AK (Army)

SSG Jay Bishop Spt Bn
 SFC Steve Branham Spt Bn
 MSG Ronald Busse Spt Bn
 SFC James Gasier Spt Bn
 PFC Tonya James Spt Bn
 SPC Raymond Lowdermilk Spt Bn
 SGT Erik Myers Spt Bn
 SSG David Obermeyer Spt Bn
 SSG Thomas O'Neil Spt Bn
 SPC Norman Penwarden Spt Bn
 SGT Nicholas Power Spt Bn
 SFC David Proehl Spt Bn
 SGT Rachel Pruitt Spt Bn
 SGT Martha Quirk Spt Bn
 SGT Buddy Ranel Spt Bn
 SGT Michael Scheel Spt Bn
 SSG Robert Seeger Spt Bn
 SPC Theodora Smith Spt Bn
 SSG Robert Spinks Spt Bn
 SGT Susie Stephens Spt Bn
 SFC Timothy Straub Spt Bn
 SGT Lisa Thompson Spt Bn
 SGT Barbara Waggoner Spt Bn

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal



COL Jeffrey Arnold JFHQ-AK (Army)

Armed Forces Reserve Medal



SSG Jay Bishop Spt Bn
 SFC Steve Branham Spt Bn
 MSG Ronald Busse Spt Bn
 SFC James Gasier Spt Bn
 SFC Jason Nesslage Spt Bn
 SPC Norman Penwarden Spt Bn
 SFC David Proehl Spt Bn
 SPC Theodora Smith Spt Bn
 SGT Susie Stephens Spt Bn
 SGT Lisa Thompson Spt Bn



Air Worthies. Lieutenant General Daniel James III, director of the Air National Guard, presents Captain John Morse and Major Michael Stowers with Air Medals Feb. 24, at the Rescue Coordination Center at Camp Denali. The aviators earned the medals for meritorious achievement while participating in sustained aerial flight.

Photo: Lieutenant Amy Bombassaro, JFHQ-AK Public Affairs

PROMOTIONS

Colonel

Leon Bridges 207th Bde
 Kurt Mueller ASDF
 Theron Wilson ASDF

Lieutenant Colonel

Brent Demoss 144th AS
 Thomas Cobaugh 176th AMXS
 Karen Mansfield 176th MSF
 Thomas Bolin 176th OG
 Peter Manthey 211th RQS
 Daryl Peterson 211th RQS
 Doris Hendrickson ASDF
 Albert McQueen ASDF

Major

Howard Franklin 1st Bn
 Cheryl Anderson 207th Avn
 Paul Tappen 49th Space
 Kris Clark Med Det
 John Owens 144th AS
 Keo Bailey 176th ACS
 Edward Soto 176th CES
 Corrinne Olivera 176th MDG
 George Siter ASDF

Captain

Corbin Sawyer 207th Bde
 Guy Bailly 207th Bde
 Timothy Galloway Spt Bn
 Franklin Bithos 207th Avn

Todd Miller 207th Avn
 Marc Overson 144th AS
 Steven Aragon 176th MDG
 Joseph Conroy 212th RQS

First Lieutenant

Brandon Barbieri 1st Bn
 Robin Isaacson Spt Bn
 Nanette Martinez 176th WG
 Andrew Williams 176th OG
 Patrick Lang 176th OG

Second Lieutenant

Nicholas Hoover 2nd Bn

Chief Master Sergeant

Robert Price 176th LRS

Master Sergeant (E-8)

Ronald Busse JFHQ-AK (Army)
 Gerald Christensen 207th Bde
 Shawn McLeod 3rd Bn
 Andrew Kennedy Spt Bn
 Elizabeth Burdette 207th Avn

Senior Master Sergeant

Douglas Echternacht 144th AS
 Joslyn Childs 176th LRS
 Brian Hartley 176th MSF
 Antony Mahoy 176th MXS

John Youngblood 176th MXS
 Jeffrey Ullom 176th OG
 Eric Schisler 211th RQS
 Steven Slagle 212th RQS

Sergeant First Class (E-7)

Rodger Dean JFHQ-AK (Army)
 Christopher Gongora JFHQ-AK (Army)
 Mark Nieto JFHQ-AK (Army)
 Amber Mayer JFHQ-AK (Army)
 Daryl Shoup JFHQ-AK (Army)
 Samuel Ethridge JFHQ-AK (Army)
 Lauren Kostoff JFHQ-AK (Army)
 Paul Wonder JFHQ-AK (Army)
 Michael Grunst 207th Bde
 Charles Hooper 207th Bde
 Rodney Jones 1st Bn
 Robert Seeger 1st Bn
 Timothy Smith 1st Bn
 Maureen Meehan 49th Space
 Kenneth Denny 117th MPAD

Master Sergeant

Jimmy King Jr. 168th ARW
 Jennifer Nelson 168th AMXS
 Danielle St Laurent 168th MDG
 Gregory Pippin 168th OSF
 Robert Dickerson Jr. 168th SFS
 Jeanette Gonzalez 176th ACS
 Eric Welling 176th LRS

John Cleveland 176th LRS
 Albert Felder 176th LRS
 Paul Jenkins 176th LRS
 Peter Alexakis 176th AMXS
 Roland Lemieux 176th MXS
 Roy Duckworth 176th MXS
 Kevin Thompson 176th MXG
 Richard Snyder 176th OSF
 Curtis Brenton 176th SFS
 Kevin Carrier 176th SFS
 Steven Paine 176th SFS
 Charles Pasco 176th SFS
 Henry Gatpandan 176th SVF
 Frederick Suavillo 213th SWS

Staff Sergeant (E-6)

Douglas McKee JFHQ-AK (Army)
 Antonio Bates JFHQ-AK (Army)
 Andre Scott JFHQ-AK (Army)
 Erke Crawford JFHQ-AK (Army)
 Betty Gail Keao JFHQ-AK (Army)
 Harry Alexie JFHQ-AK (Army)
 Jeremiah Ladenburg JFHQ-AK (Army)
 Danny Counts 1st Bn
 Robert Lauer 1st Bn
 Derek Rabago 3rd Bn
 Gary Smith Spt Bn
 Jaqueline Tyson Spt Bn
 Thomas O'Neil Spt Bn
 Kimberly Ruffner 207th Avn

Richard Mathieson 49th Space
 Finn Rye ASDF

Technical Sergeant

Alicia R. Hawley 168th MDG
 Claudia O. Cen 168th MSG
 Aaron F. Walton 168th LRS
 Edward N. Deal 168th MXS
 Trenton L. White 168th LRS
 David Victory 176th WG
 Gerardo Day Det 1, HQ
 Cindy Cain 176th ACS
 Patrick Davis 176th APF
 Robert Anderson 176th CES
 David Brown 176th CES
 Asia Gile 176th CF
 Angel Gurtler 176th LRS
 Chelsea Johnson 176th LRS
 Earl Singleton 176th LRS
 Nick Giannakos 176th MOF
 Brian Hessert 176th MXS
 Mitchell Hawkins 176th MXS
 Mark Koeckritz 176th MXS
 Steven Dawson 176th MXS
 James Asselin 176th MXS
 Ryan Campbell 176th AMXS
 Bernard Desena 176th AMXS
 Ronald Frost Jr. 176th SFS
 Mark Turton 176th SFS
 James Pennington 176th SFS

Mario Martinez 176th SVF
 Anthony Gardner 176th SVF
 Jeremy Groat 210th RQS
 Garrick Hoehne 212th RQS

Staff Sergeant

Tiffany Deeter 168th AMXS
 Generoso Manahan 168th AMXS
 Bernadett Martelle 168th OG
 Charlette Price 168th MSF
 Jeffrey Shelton 168th LRS
 Matthew Carse 176th ACS
 Luke Davis 176th APF
 Emily Lawley 176th APF
 Orelvis Ibarra 176th CF
 Andrew Duren 176th CF
 Jonathan Lewis 176th CES
 Calvin Bradley 176th LRS
 Pauline Jones 176th MDG
 Gina Gonzalez 176th MDG
 Matthew Moore 176th MXS
 Maggie Chapman 176th MOF
 Stephan Walker 176th AMXS
 Koaalii Bailey 176th STF
 Michael Robertson 176th SVF
 Leah Scott 176th SVF
 Geneva Hoskins 176th SVF
 Stephen Ludwig 176th STU
 Michael Lajcsak 211th RQS

RETIREMENTS

SFC Louis Crew JFHQ-AK (Army)
 MSG Timothy Stearns JFHQ-AK (Army)
 MSG James Wafer JFHQ-AK (Army)
 SGT John Carl 2nd Bn
 SGT Earl Hansen 3rd Bn
 SGT Michael Lundberg 3rd Bn
 CW3 James Crockett 207th Avn
 SFC James Hastings R&R
 MSgt Debra French JFHQ-AK (Air)
 Lt Col Tracy Saltmarsh 168th ARS
 SMSgt William Perry Jr. 168th SFS

Lt Col Jay Williams 168th AMXS
 MSgt Frank Chmelik Jr. 168th AMXS
 MSgt Kathryn Laubscher 176th WG
 MSgt Wendy Moody 176th WG
 MSgt Allen Minish 144th AS
 MSgt Rodney Crews 176th CF
 TSgt Steven Gehring 176th CF
 SMSgt Mark Carlson 176th MXS
 MSgt Bradley Garner 176th MXS
 MSgt Lisa Coker 176th MSF
 MSgt Steven Cook 176th AMXS

Lt Col Paul Holmquist 176th OSF
 MSgt Thomas Pirro 176th OSF
 TSgt Alexander Clark 176th SFS
 MSgt David Leynes 206th CBCS
 TSgt Craig Teigen 206th CBCS
 Maj Michael Wellman 211th RQS
 MSgt Philip Wilson 211th RQS
 SMSgt Dean Laubscher 211th RQS
 SMSgt John Loomis 212th RQS
 Maj Mitchell Gates Det 1

Alaska Air Guardsman Dies During Training; Guard Mourns Death of One of Our Own

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas... Officials say 41-year-old Major Bryan Adrian, a member of the Alaska Air Guard's 212th Rescue Squadron, 176th Wing, died during an exercise in a swimming pool at Lackland Air Force Base near San Antonio, February 16, 2006.

Adrian was participating in a Combat Rescue Officer Course in Texas, learning the skills to become a Combat Rescue Officer – an assignment that correlates identically for the Guard's Pararescuemen.

Training specialists noticed he was having difficulty and jumped into the pool in an attempt to save him. They tried several life-saving techniques. He was subsequently pronounced dead at Lackland AFB's Wilford Hall Hospital.

Adrian moved to Anchorage and joined the Alaska Air Guard in November of 2005. He had a significant background in aviation as both a pilot with United Airlines and the Wyoming Air National Guard. He was the father of two children.

"We join our entire Guard family in raising up our prayers on behalf of Bryan and his family and many friends," said Major General Craig Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard. "Anne Marie and I offer our sincere condolences to the Adrian family as well as all members of our 176th Wing."



Start of the Trail

Welcome our newest members & employees

Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Chris Bodziony
Doug Lewis
Mike Sutton
Lise Bernhardt
Janel Betlej
Grant Fry
George Humm
Terrisa Mellon
Lauren Nicholas
Jay Regan
Josey Simmons
Geoffrey Woodward

168th Air Refueling Wing

Ezra Pitzer
Devin Baker
Jeremy Sackrider
Jeremy Janssen
Robert Monteith
Roy Lashley
Chandlyn WyKoff
Andria Jackson
Charles Fisher
Othaniel Cooper
Justin Lewendawski
Amy Gauger
James Dube
Stephen Proctor
Eric Brandlen
David Kiernan
Chip Yde
Thomas Wright
Nicholas Gipson
Kit Dawson

176th Wing

Roger Chumbler
Mark Boutwell
Bob Roberts
Kristina Dibucci
Rushing

Christina Cordes
Katelyn Magnuson
Bernadette Abellera
Misa Ruiz
Tim Brown
Jason Collison
Dominic Kuntz
Tiffany Knight
Jeremy Dodson
Eric Rutter
Jeff Jaworski
Christopher Richardson
Leslie Howard
Lavone Gardino
John D. Breuker
Blassi Shoogukwruk
Vickie Parker
Eric Mieczynski
Adam Lewis
Joshua Cormier
Jimmy Rojas
Shawn Kane

297th Infantry

Frederick Graham
Kenneth Bradley
Clayton Kasayuli
Matthew Wheeler
Westley Cooper
Michael Mullinax, Jr.
Henry Niehaus
Matthew Shearer
Joshua Savo
Anthony Kline
Robe Gutierrez
Daquis, Jr.
Trent Lee
Chester Ballot, Jr.
Fritz Alexie
Elias Kvasnikoff

297th Support Battalion

Josephine Hooper
Samantha Bailey
Sonny Hadley

Juan Restrepo
Posada
Tori LaFountain
Bryce Jones
David Noy
Nicholas Taylor
Chad Stone
Houa Yang

Army Guard Medical Detachment

Shala Nielsen
Mark Pierce
Jamie Lynch
Elaina Amberger
Kayla O'Farrell

207th Aviation

George Brendel
Todd Ferris
Kenneth Wilson
Justin Haines
James Sharp
Willamina Lake
Colin Oppeward
Jeffery Phillips
Samantha Young
Raymond Castner
Jared Houser
Damion Minchaca

207th Infantry

Charles Garrison

Taraillus Houston
Robert Robinson
Joel Shaw
Leroy Blix
Frank Schreiber
Desiree Hughett
Reuben Mayer
Tammy Carl
Anna Marie Roberts
Kenneth Hart
Flerida Torres
Marizan
Matthew Fernlund
Floyd Rapp
Tristan Edwards
Jackson
Khamphanh
Lee Vue
Christopher Norbert

JFHQ-AK (Army)

Amy Bombassaro
Margaret Moonin
Antonio Vega
Truitt Martin
Cody Rice
Jeffrey Richardson
Ryan Graney
Raymond Ash
Casey Simmons
Lidia Cortes Calvillo

Warriors Training Schedule

Here are the inactive training dates for all Alaska Army and Air National Guard units. Dates for subordinate units are the same as their parent headquarters, unless otherwise indicated. All dates are subject to change. Most Alaska Army Guard units perform annual training (AT) through the winter.

Alaska National Guard	March	April	May	June
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	4-5	1-2	18-21	10-11
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	4-5/18-19	8-9	6-7	3-4

Alaska Army National Guard

207th Infantry Group	3-5	7-9	No Drill	2-4
1/207th Aviation Regiment	No Drill	7-9	5-7	3-4
297th Support Battalion	3-5	7-9	No Drill	9-10
Regional Training Institute	4-5	29-30	20-21	3-4

Alaska Air National Guard


168th Air Refueling Wing	4-5	1-2	18-21	10-11
176th Wing	11-12	1-2	6-7	10-11

Alaska State Defense Force

Headquarters	18-19	22-23	20-21	17-18
Academy	18-19	22-23	20-21	22-23

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The background of the top half of the advertisement is a close-up, slightly wavy image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in detail.

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Today, men and women across the U.S. are stepping forward to protect freedom and their fellow Americans. Many are members of the Army National Guard. They are citizen-soldiers, so they can answer the Nation's call, whenever, wherever, and for as long as they are needed. And while all Americans are able to enjoy freedom, not everyone is able to be a member of this proud and elite team. Think you can? Call 1-800-GO-GUARD (1-800-464-8273) or visit www.1-800-GO-GUARD.com to learn more about the Army National Guard.



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